

MINUTES

BOARD MEETING AND PUBLIC HEARING

INDIANA BOARD FIREFIGHTING PERSONNEL STANDARDS & EDUCATION

**HOLIDAY INN
2480 JONATHAN MOORE PIKE
COLUMBUS IN 47201
812-372-1541
10 AM
June 16, 2005**

A. BOARD MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

B. ROLL CALL

PRESENT

**Marshal Johnson (left at 10:35)
Paul Covington
Patrick Donoghue
Charles Hall
Jack Kerney
Jerry Nulliner
Mike Garvey (designee for Director Dietz)
Thomas Hanify (10:40)**

ABSENT

Derrick Scott

C. PUBLIC HEARING ON LSA DOCUMENT 04-297

Pursuant to IC 4-22-2-26. This is a public hearing concerning the proposed amendments to 655-IAC 1-1 and 655 IAC 102.1

contained and LSA document 04-297 as proposed by the Board of Firefighting Personnel Standards and Education and as published in the Indiana Register on May 1st, 2005. After a brief explanation of the rule an opportunity will be given to any interested party to participate in the discussion of these amendments by presenting their comments either orally or in written form.

This document amends 655 IAC to add certification to the National Incident Management System, First Responder certifications, and make performing section changes. It will become effective 30 days after filing with the Secretary of State.

Are there any public comments?

If anyone wants to speak on this, now is the time.

Are there any public comments?

One last time.

Are there any public comments?

There being no further comments, this hearing is now concluded. The Board will consider any and all comments made today. They may adopt the proposed amendments in their present form or they may make changes. After final adoption of by the Board, this rule will be submitted to the Attorney General, for approval as to the legality and form. Then it will go to the governor for approval. Finally the rule will then be filed with the Secretary of State and the Legislative Council.

This concludes the public hearing.

D. MINUTES FROM MAY 16, 2005 BOARD MEETING & STATISCAL REPORT FOR MAY.

Jack Kerney made a motion to accept. Jerry Nulliner Seconded. Motion passed.

E. BOARD DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ADOPTION OF LSA DOCUMENT 04-297

Jerry Nulliner made a motion to accept. Paul Covington Seconded.

Jerry Nulliner stated that he has had several phone calls from people wanting to know if, or how we were going to accept

people prior training they have had, in order to receive certification.

I would think that they would have to file for a variance based on there training. Would anyone taking the FEMA on line testing be eligible. They would also have to file for a variance.

Mara Snyder – I think the board needs to address this, after the document gets approved. In the July meeting the board can decide how they want to address this. We are looking at about 120 days for this to go through the approval process. So there is time to decide what the board wants to do.

Motion passed.

F. VARIANCES; HEARINGS AND APPEALS

1) Keith Combs requests a variance for Instructor 1, 655 IAC 1-2.1-19. His Instructor expired 4/04. Staff recommends approval pending passing the Instructor update test. Jerry Nulliner made a motion to pass. Charles Hall seconded. Motion Passed.

Paul Covington would like to change this process. He requests that the individual takes the Instructor Update test first. If they pass, the request would then go on to the board.

2) Carey Slauter requests variance for FO 3, 655 IAC 1-2.1-10. Staff recommends approval. Jack Kerney made a motion to pass. Paul Covington Seconded. Motion passed.

Patrick Donoghue combined the following variances: 3,4,5,6 ,7 and 8.

3) Joel Thacker requests variance for FO 3, 655 IAC 1-2.1-10. Staff recommends approval

4) Amir Mousavi requests variance for FO 3, 655 IAC 1-2.1-10. Staff recommends approval pending 4 hour update.

5) Joe Ermert requests variance for FO 3, 655 IAC 1-2.1-10
Staff recommends approval.

6) Randy Weasner requests variance for FO 3, 655 IAC 1-2.1-10. Staff recommends approval.

7) Shawn Halberstadt requests variance for FO 3, 655 IAC 1-2.1-10. . Staff recommends approval.

8) Migual Ongay requests variance for FO 3, 655 IAC 1-2.1-10. . Staff recommends approval.

Jack Kerney made a motion to pass these variances. Jerry Nulliner seconded. Motion passed.

9) Robert Hess Jr, is requesting reciprocity for FF 1, 655 IAC 1-2.1-4. He has no IN certifications at this time. He has Pro Board FF1. Staff recommends approval pending 4hr. update.

Jerry Nulliner made a motion to pass. Paul Covington seconded. The understanding is that if he wants IFSAC he will have to take the written and practical test. Motion passed.

Since Marshal has already spoken, Mike Garvey would you like to speak at this time?

Mike Garvey introduces Brad Thatcher at this time.

Brad Thatcher – We have been reorganized in the state. We have combined 3 divisions into the Dept. of Homeland Security. We have then been divided into 4 primary divisions that make up the department. Planning assessment division, planning and Training division, Response and Recovery division, and the Fire and Safety division. I would like to talk just a few minutes and give you an idea of what Planning and Training is. (handouts given to the board at this time.) essentially what we have done is brought all of the emergency services and first response training under one division. We are breaking down the silos that have existed for so long with Fire service training on one side of the street and law enforcement training on another side of the street and they are training on the

same subjects. We are wasting resources. I wanted to provide the board a copy of the short and long term goals. (handouts) and an organizational chart. There are six different sections that exist under the training division. The goals of this division are that we work closely with the State Fire Marshal's office in the establishment of the State Fire Training Center. The reorganization of the certification that we already have. Currently your EMS is on one data base and your FIRE is on another training base. We want to develop a new data base that will combine all of these together. If you hold any certifications, all data will be on one data base. Those are the primary functions in this division that we would like to accomplish.

G.

STATE FIRE MARSHAL – ROGER JOHNSON

The Marshal asked for everyone to bow there heads and give 1 minute of silence for Fire Chief Perdue. Who died in a fire.

The Marshal spoke about the interest and concern that Governor Daniels has expressed of the safety of emergency responders. It is time to make decisions now. If we don't take advantage of the support that we have it will be our fault. He spoke about a speech that Tom Hanify gave last year about the location of the Fire Academy, and the Police Academy. Everyone new where the police academy was. When asked where the Fire Academy was, no one spoke. Tom Hanify responded with "I rest my case". The Marshal went on to state that it is time to change. Indiana has the opportunity to take advantage of Governor Daniels interest in the fire academy. Soon the legislature will be asked for money to support fire training. Kentucky has 22 state regional fire training centers. When they do a training drill, a semi pulls from Kentucky Fire Training. He spoke about the adjunct instructors. Illinois has 458. Indiana has none. They operate 18 training facilities. Indiana encourages training, we certify, but we have never offered training.

Terrorism is a common way of life today. Every Fire Dept. could be needed during the next event. People detest our way of life have said that the next attack planned will kill hundreds of thousands. We as a society cannot fathom hundreds of thousands victims. We must come in to this new era with new thinking about national hazards. We've already had chemical emergencies, we've had one weapons of mass destruction event since I've been in office. We are facing a new way of thinking. We've just completed delivery of two mass casualty mobile hospitals in Indiana. Vincennes Twp, under the guidance of Chief Smith and Fishers FD under the supervision of Chief Brian Lott, are now preparing there members and training them on deployment of

these state of the art hospitals. We could not imagine a few years back that the Fire Dept. would be training on mass casualty field hospitals as our regular duties. How many of you received grants in the last few years from FEMA and Homeland Security for self contained breathing equipment. Over 75% of the grants provided were for this equipment. They are giving you air and protecting clothing for a reason. They are not challenging you. They want the first responders to have them. Our administration from the top all the way down the line is committed to improving the way we do business. Training is the number one priority of the fire service. Training is safety. Safety means everyone goes home. The question is how should that training occur. Last year the Vigo county fire instructors, started the Vigo County Fire Academy. It's a great initiative. We need to promote this. We need to promote anybody that does something like this. Career and volunteer need to work together on something like this. We need to practice together to respond to emergencies. In order to make that happen, every corner of Indiana should have standardize training. Indiana has 10 Homeland Security regions. We will avail training to all 10 regions through partnerships. Our first opportunity is Ft. Wayne. This will be the first of our regional partnerships. We need a central campus for specialized training and administrative functions. This is not what I say; it is what you have said at the state wide conference.

The United States Army, Department of Defense, out at Muscatatuck are putting a training facility. There are going to pay for the training center to be built for the United States Army. It is now going to be known as the National Emergency Response Training Center. An exercise is going to be put on in October and 5 other countries are going to participate. They will be exercise will be spoken in 6 different languages. People from all over the world will be training at Muscatatuck. It will be built on 650 acres. This is a good location for a planned regional center for us. On line training is a goal.

Indiana is off to a record pace in fire deaths. Current numbers are 18 children and 22 adults have died since January. Nearly 80% of fire deaths this year, did not have working fire detectors. Debbie Watson, Indiana Safety Educator, has started a campaign with Riley Hospital supply smoke detectors for the special needs children.

We would like to regionalize strike teams made up of special investigators, made up of firefighter individuals, with special training to supplement the Fire Marshal's operations. We only have 11 fire investigators in the state. We need to form a regionalized task force made of every one of the individual regions, to support, and maintain the scene until the appropriate personnel can arrive. They will help gather information etc . K-9 units are a great value in this program. These dogs are crucial in the investigation of arson. We have a new working relationship with the state police. Homeland security

planning is now focused to bring all necessary disciplines together, state and regional together on hazardous approach.

In closing, I feel that we are on the right track. This is not about what I want, or what the governor wants, this is about what you want. God Bless all of you.

H. INDIANA DEPT. OF TRAINING AND CERTIFICATIONS – TONY PAGANO

You have your statistics in front of you. The department has been very busy. We are trying to stream line the certification process. Our testing program and turn around procedures are part of the time lag. Lori Robison will explain the process for testing.

Part of the problem is when the applications are received, we must validate the proctor and lead evaluator information. There are nine steps to issue a certification. This process is the same whether it is one student or 50 students. After we have validated the information we mail out the practical books to the lead evaluator. We then record the test date on the calendar for mailing. We send grades to the proctor. When tests are received back in , they are graded. Paper work is then matched up. Notify the proctor or evaluator about any missing paperwork. Then is entered into the data base, pass/fail letters are then issued. Then certifications are printed, patches attached and mailed to the Fire Chief. Yesterday I had 83 outstanding tests in the office today. We have issued 829 courses. Last year we issued 1200 for the year. We are ahead from last year.

Discussion on feedback being sent back. It was decided that no questions or answers would be sent back. Only the objective missed would be returned from now on.

Tony Pagano – If you fail an exam, for retest, you will be getting a totally new exam.

To cut down on mailing and handling, we will be putting practicals on line. They will be available to everyone.

When Lori was giving her report, we want to show you the link of time it takes to get this done. We are asking for 30 day notice instead of the current 15. Also, your meeting agenda, changes can be made up to 10AM on the meeting date. We would ask for a 2 week closing time prior to the meeting. This gives us time to go over everything and get your packets to you.

Jerry Nulliner made a motion to put a 2 week cut off date prior to meeting. Paul Covington seconded. Motion passed.

I. ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEEDINGS – ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE

No report at this time.

J. OLD BUSINESS

- 1) Fire Officer 3 practicals skills. Paul Covington
- 2) Fire Officer 3 written test bank validation – Paul Covington

Paul Covington made a motion to accept the FO 3 written/practical test. Tom Hanify seconded. Motion passed.

Patrick Donoghue stated to the audience at this time, that if anyone had any questions, pertaining to the topics under discussion, feel free to ask the question. State your opinion. Speak out. We want input.

- 3) Re-establish task force – Paul Covington

I do not have this done at this time. I want to thank the people that have helped with validation at this time. I would like to utilize the people that I have been using but I also want to get more people involved. Anyone that is interested let me know, or let Tony know.

Question from the floor – once a test bank has been validated is that it, or do you go back when you have a high failure rate to find out if a question is consistently answered wrong.

We try to go back and evaluate the question when it is answered consistently wrong. This is what we did with the mandatory. When you tell us that a question is wrong, tell us. We are human, and we make mistakes.

The instructor can call the office and get the feedback for the class. It tells him, what objectives were missed.

Can the mandatory criteria be made available to instructor's state wide.

- 4) Status of IFSAC – Paul Covington

We were given a deadline of July 1st. We are looking pretty good right now. Inspector 1/2, I have not started yet. We are down to the wire. If they do not renew, we gave it our best shot. I want to thank everyone that has participated in this. It is a tough process and we drew some tough evaluators. Part of the problem was because we had new test banks.

K. NEW BUSINESS

- 1) Mandatory training, - Paul Covington

It was my recommendation to the staff to increase the number of questions. We were having a large amount of failures. We were always supposed to have Wildland FF in the special hazardous category. There are only 3 questions in the test bank, on wildland firefighting. We are not teaching the material. The 50 question has increased the pass rate by about 50%. We have to teach competency. You are signing off that the student has been taught, and you are looking at law suits. They must be taught competency. The questions that students are missing are seriously safety issues. Fire behavior, ventilation are all safety issues. We are missing the technique for ventilation. I have run a few of these courses. My pass rate was not as good as I would have thought either. Maybe some of us can help you with a syllabus on this or put together a power point.

Tony Pagano – Our training division will develop a curriculum for mandatory.

Brad Thatcher – This is the first time I have heard about this, so I cannot give you a time line. One thing that we are looking at is putting this on line. Anyone will be able to go to our web site and download these.

Question – does everyone on the fire dept have to have the I 700, 100, 200.

The I100 level is for the FF. The I700 is incorporated into that. I200 is for captains, etc. You have to show that you are using the I700 before you would qualify for grants. Certification is not a necessity. You just have to show that your dept is using the ICS system. IS700 is an awareness level course. Beyond that, anyone that is in a response position should have the ICS 100. Beyond that you get into the ICS 200 which is getting into the officer level.

BULLATIN BOARD –

Tony Pagano – We have talked about having a bulletin board listing information that would be of use to you. Also, we are checking into a list-serve. These would be helpful for finding test sites, and any news available.

L. **ADJOURNMENT at 12:15 pm**